12.01 hrs.

RE: ASSAULT ON INDIAN DIPLOMAT IN ISLAMABAD

[English]

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR (Baramati) : Mr. Speaker Sir, I just want to raise a small but very important issue. It is reported day before yesterday that an Indian Diplomat, Shri Rawat had been beaten in Islamabad.

This is not the first instance of its kind in Pakistan. It is the responsibility of the respective Government to provide full security and protection to all diplomats. But this is happening. The action against Shri Rawat was uncivilised and criminal. I think, it is high time that the Government of India took note of this particular incident very seriously and if possible, the hon. Minister should make a statement on this.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE) : Sir, in reply to what the Leader of Opposition has just now said, I would like to make a statement.

Shri B.S. Rawat, Attache in our High Commission in Islamabad was assaulted and badly beaten in front of his residence in Islamabad on the morning of May 31, 1998. Shri Rawat was walking from his residence to the house of his collegue when an individual, purportedly a Security Guard of a neighbouring house accosted him and beat him up with a lathi.

Shri Rawat suffered serious injuries including head injuries and fractures in both of his arms. He has been hospitalised and is recovering. The circumstances of the assault are very disturbing.

The High Commissioner of Pakistan was summoned to the Foreign Office yesterday. Our Foreign Secretary lodged a strong protest at this very serious and abnormal incident which is completely unacceptable. The High Commissioner has been told that the security of our Mission is the responsibility of Pakistan and clearly the Pakistani authorities failed in providing the required security because of which this incident occurred. The High Commissioner was asked to convey our protest to his Government and it is demanded that Pakistan ensures that full security is provided to our Mission personnel. The Pakistan High Commissioner, while stating that his Government was providing security to our personnel and that this incident was only an individual occurrence, expressed regret. He also assured that a full investigation would take place.

The security of our Mission in Pakistan remains a matter of concern. We will continue to demand of Pakistan that it fulfils its obligations under International Conventions and the bilateral code of conduct in ensuring full security to our Mission in Islamabad.

12.03 hrs.

[Translation]

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

Annual Report, Annual Accounts and Review by the Government of the working of the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research, New Delhi.

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY : (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI) : Sir, I beg to lay on the Table :

(1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research, New Delhi, for the year 1995-96.

(ii) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research, New Delhi, for the year 1995-96 together with Audit Report thereon.

(iii) Statement (Hindi and English versions) regarding Review by the Government of the working of the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research, New Delhi, for the year 1995-96.

(2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 248/98]

Annual Report and Review by the Government of the working of the Tehri Hydro Development Corporation Ltd., Tehri, National Hydroelectric Power Corporation Ltd. etc.

[English]

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM) : Sir I beg to lay on the Table

(1) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions under sub-section (I) of Section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956;

(a) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Tehri Hydro Development Corporation Limited, Tehri, for the year 1996-97.

(ii) Annual Report of the Tehri Hydro Development Corporation Limited, Tehri, for the year 1996-97, alongwith Audited Accounts and Comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 249/98]